

resembles No. 6 (No. 332 *e.*) in proportions and distance of grinders, but is only about two-thirds the size, and the blood-vessel on each side the palate, which in that skull is open, is here partly covered over with a thin layer of bone; the 4th upper grinder has a compressed simple root with a groove on the lower part of its outer side, and the 5th grinder is two-rooted. It is to be observed, that the Orwell specimen, No. 8, was a female, and that the nose of this and of skull No. 6 differ from the others in being rather longer, and in the grinders being rather further apart: is this the character of the female sex? and in both these skulls the 4th grinder is single-rooted: is that also a sexual character? It is to be hoped that the Danish or American naturalists who have the opportunity of examining these seals, will determine the question.

It would thus appear, from what I have stated, that in this genus the form of the root of the grinders is very liable to variation; I have not observed any similar variation in the teeth of any other seal, and still believe that the form of the roots affords a good character in most of the genera.

We have lately received from the West Indies the skin and skull of a seal which evidently belongs to the same genus as the crested seal of the northern hemisphere. The skull, or rather the teeth, when compared with those of the Greenland specimens, induce me to believe that it is distinct from them. It chiefly differs in the form of the outer upper cutting teeth and canines. In *all* the specimens, both old and young, from the North Sea, the outer upper cutting teeth and the canines are narrow and compressed. In the West Indian skull, which is that of a very young specimen, the outer upper cutting teeth and the canines are broad, strongly keeled on each side and longitudinally plaited within. In this skull the 4th grinder has only a single root, and the 5th grinder has two; the crowns of the teeth are plaited and tubercular like those of the North Sea specimens. The face is rather broader than in a skull of the northern kind of nearly the same size. This species may be called *Cystophora antillarum*.

We have received an imperfect skin of a seal from Jamaica, which was brought home by Mr. Gosse. It is unfortunately without any bones. The whiskers are short, thick, white, cylindrical, regularly tapering, and without any appearance of a wave or twist. In this character it most agrees with *Phoca barbata*.

June 26, 1849.

R. H. Solly, Esq., in the Chair.

The Secretary reported that two living examples of *Crotalus durissus* had been presented to the collection by R. Davis, Esq., F.Z.S.,

and that examples of *Rhamphastos carinatus* and *Felis mitis* had been acquired by purchase; that a Virginian Deer (*C. virginianus*) had fawned on June 16, and the Sambur Deer (*C. hippelaphus*), presented by Capt. Molison, had fawned on June 19. The period of gestation in the latter species appears to be eight months and twenty-four days.

Letters had been received from Lieut. Tyler, R.E. (Santa Lucia), R. J. Bouchier, Esq. (Malta), and A. N. Shaw, Esq. (Bombay).

Dr. Melville gave an oral exposition of Dr. Kaup's views of the natural arrangement of Birds, derived from a paper by that distinguished ornithologist, which he was engaged in translating for publication. Dr. Melville's address was illustrated by the original diagrams transmitted to him by Dr. Kaup.

July 10, 1849.

Harpnr Gamble, Esq., M.D., in the Chair.

The Secretary stated that he had the pleasure of reporting the safe arrival of the animals announced at the meeting of Feb. 27 as having been presented by Lieut.-Colonel Butterworth. In addition to this liberal donation from the Governor of Singapore, which the Society could not fail to regard as a valuable proof of His Excellency's interest in the Institution, the great collection from Egypt had been successfully transported to the Gardens, and the combined accessions formed by far the most important aggregate ever introduced at the same period.

The species presented by his late Highness Ibrahim Pasha were as follow:—

Camelopardalis giraffa, ♀.
Antilope leucoryx, ♀ ♀.
 „ *nasomaculata*, ♂ ♀.
 „ *dorcas*, 3 ♂, 2 ♀.
Camelus dromedarius, ♂ ♀.
Struthio camelus, ♂ ♀.

The species collected by the Hon. C. A. Murray were:—

Cynocephalus hamadryas, ♂.
Felis Leo, 3 ♂.
 „ *jubata*, ♀.
Camelopardalis giraffa, ♀.
Struthio camelus, 2 ♂.
Porphyrio smaragnotus, ♂ ♀.
Phœnicopterus antiquorum.
Pelecanus crispus, ♂ ♀ et juv.